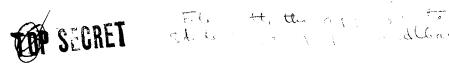
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The Fereign Office have now considered the State Department's memorandum of Hovember 16th 1951 regarding the future status of Albania and desirable action on the part of the U.S. and U.K. Governments.

- 2. The Fereign Office are substantially in agreement with the State Department's memorandum. They are glad to note that the State Repertment, like the Foreign Office, desire to see an independent Albania, and for the same reasons. The Foreign Office likewise agree that the Western Powers should continue their diplomatic and other efforts to undersine the present regime, with a view to overthrowing it at some future date. Within this framework there remain a few points of detail to be concerted.
- 3. It will be remembered that paregraph 8 of the Foreign Office's memorandum of the 20th June 1951 listed three recommendations. These were that the U.S. and U.L. Governments should jointly:
 - (i) urge the Yugoslave and Greeks not to enter Albanda in the event Albania in the event of a cominform attack on Yugoslavia, and if they inwisted on entering the country, try to persuade them to agree on a suitable line beyond which they would not advance;
 - (ii) in the event of any such Greeo-Engoslav occupation of Albania, ensure that a public declaration be made to the effect that it was only temperary, in order to reassure the Italians;
 - (iii) tell the Yugoslavs and Greeks, when raising the question of Albania with them, that if the present Communist regime in that country collapsed from internal stresses we should wish to consult with them and with the Italians about the most suitable regime to succeed it.
 - 4. The State Department in their measurants of lith Howenber, 1951 accepted the first two recommendations, but only if "the imminence of actual outbreek of hestilities in the Balkans required". The Foreign Office have doubts about the wisdom of leaving these approaches to the Yugoslav and Freek Governments so late. It is clear that satellite Albania, by its

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Very existence, constitutes a continuing potential military threat to Ingoslavia and Greece. Both these countries must obviously make their war plans regarding Albania, and cannot be expected to change them at the last moment, when war is either imminent or has actually broken out. Prior discussion therefore seems essential to the Foreign Office. Furthermore the Fereign Office feel that the appreaches suggested by the State Department would not in themselves be sufficient unless linked with appreaches to the Yugoslav and Greek Governments regarding their attitude in the event that an investor of Albania becomes in the end a military necessity.

- 5. The Foreign Office therefore hope that the State Department will agree that our two Governments should approach the Yugoslav and Greek Governments. On the other hand, the Foreign Office recognise that the time for this is not yet ripe. They would prefer to say nothing to the Yugoslav and Greek Governments until the position of Greece in Admiral Carney's southern flank command is firstly established, and until some definite progress has been made in defence discussions with the Yugoslav Government. The State Department will appreciate that this order of priorities makes the proposed approach to the Yugoslav and Greek Governments a matter of no special urgancy.
- 6. The Fereign Office are glad to see that the State Department have fully accepted the last recommendation quoted above. Indeed, the Fereign Office note that the State Department go further in Section C of their memorandum and suggest that our two Governments abould obtain assurances from the Ingoslav, Greek and Italian Governments that they do not "profess claims to privileged positions in reference to Albania", and that the HATO should be used as a forum to discuss Ingoslavia's position towards Albania. The Foreign Office, for their part, accept the State Department's view that our Governments should seek assurances from the three Governments concerned. But they feel that it would not at the present time be suitable to discuss

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the question of Albania or Yugoslav-Albanian relations in the WATO. In this context, the Foreign Office do not like the prospect of asking the Italian Government to give an assurance in WATO about Albania; which the Italian Government would cartainly not welcome.

7. The Foreign Office look forward to learning the views of the State Department on these points.

10 March, 1952.

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